

Brief

In VLSI Research's annual Customer Satisfaction Survey 2000 of semiconductor equipment companies, topping the sub-\$300m wafer processing category was the UK's **Oxford Instruments**, its first time in the rankings.

MKS Instruments Inc (Andover, MA, USA) is acquiring spectrometer-based process monitoring equipment supplier **Spectra International** (Morgan Hill, CA, USA) for about US\$20m (including stock options). Spectra's "strength in PVD monitoring" will be combined with MKS' etch and CVD monitoring in the MKS Instruments Spectra Products group, headed by Spectra's founder, Michael Dent.

Trilon Technologies (Newport, Wales, UK) Q2/2000 results were: record sales (the eighth successive quarterly increase) of US\$26m (including license revenue of US\$350,000, plus product sales up 38% on Q1 and 137% on Q2/99); Europe (55%), North American (24%), Asia (increasing to 21%); PVD (59%), plasma etch (21%), CVD (20%). **Tegal Corp** (Petaluma, CA, USA) has received an order for its 900 Series plasma etch system from new Taiwanese GaAs foundry **WIN Semiconductors Corp** (due for installation in August) for RF MMICs (see Country Profile, page 42).

Epiwafer News

Picogiga orders first Riber MBE 7000s to double capacity

Picogiga's first-half 2000 sales were a record Euro8.65m (FF56.8m) - double H1/99. Order backlog at end-June was more than Euro8m (FF53m). Picogiga has raised its estimation of turnover for 2000 again - from 30% growth at the beginning of this year then 50% three months later to at least 65% now.

- Responding to strong demand for 6" epiwafers from both the USA and Europe for mobile telecoms and high-bit-rate Internet access through wireless local loops, Picogiga (Villejust, Courtaboeuf, France) is

to double production capacity by end-2001 by ordering three more MBE reactors from Riber - Riber's first order for its new MBE 7000 production machine, with capacity (7 x 150 mm wafers) 75% higher than the MBE 6000 (4x 150 mm). Picogiga ordered three MBE 6000s at the beginning of this year.

"To prepare for future expansion, we have purchased 8000 m² of land next to the present facility", says Chairman Linh Nuyen. Construction of a new plant will begin at the end of this year.

MOVCD News

EMCORE expands by 400%

Earlier this year, EMCORE Corp (Beverly, MA, USA) completed the first-phase expansion of its RF materials division and doubled production capacity for InGaP HBTs and pHEMTs for fibre-optic and wireless communication devices (see Issue 2, page 10). Now EMCORE has completed the second-phase expansion of its manufacturing plant in Somerset, NJ, USA by 7,000 ft² to 80,000 ft².

The expansion increases electronic material production capability nearly four-fold, accommodating 10 more Enterprise Electronic Materials MOCVD tools for production of pHEMTs and HBTs (bringing the total to 18, for a capacity of 360,000 6" wafers per year);

The expansion also increases the manufacturing capacity of the electronic device division (for production of photo-detectors for high-speed array transceivers) and of the MOCVD Tool division (to 225 tools a year).

* EMCORE has also moved its corporate offices to a new 40,000 ft² facility nearby.

* EMCORE fiscal Q3/2000 sales were US\$30m (up 26% on Q2's record sales and 70% on Q3/99). Backlog is a record of US\$105m (up 116% from end-June '99). EMCORE expects to exceed US\$100m in sales for fiscal 2000.

EMCORE

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Unaxis AG (Zurich, Switzerland) has formed the Unaxis IT group (representing nearly half the sales of the former Oerlikon-Buhrle Holding company).

It has also folded **Plasma-Therm** (acquired in March) and **BPS** into **Unaxis Semiconductors**, headquartered in St Petersburg, FL, USA (previously Plasma-Therm's corporate offices).

Riber SA is to double production capacity by leasing a second assembly site (close to the first in Rueil Malmaison, near Paris), due to be operational in December. The 700 m² site enables simultaneous assembly of five MBE 6000 machines (raising the total to nine).

MBE component and system supplier **EPI MBE Products Group** (St. Paul, MN, USA) has changed its name to **Applied Epi Inc**. The company has also named David Reamer as president (replacing Paul Colombo, who remains as founder and chairman).

Following the May 1999 merger of **Epitaxial Products International Limited (EPI)** and **Quantum Epitaxial Designs Inc (QED)** to create "pure play" merchant epiwafer supplier **IQE plc**, in July EPI changed its name to **IQE (Europe) Ltd** (which will handle sales and marketing in Europe and the Far East) and QED to **IQE Inc** (which will handle North America).